

Weather Forecast:
Partly Cloudy and Continued
Warm Tonight and Tuesday

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HOME
EDITION

JAPAN'S ACTION PERPLEXES U. S. OFFICIALS CHINA, FEARFUL OF JAPAN WAR MOVES, RUSHES TROOPS TO GERMAN KIAOCHOW

ARMY BEFORE NAMUR PREPARES TO STRIKE IN THREE DIRECTIONS

Austrian Troops Now Acting With Germans
In Belgium—Advance Pushed to Dinant—Lille, Maubeuge and Mezris, in France, Threatened—Lull in Fighting.

BRUSSELS, Aug. 17.—There was a halt in the forward movement of the German army today. Its infantry remained in position along an irregular line that covered the entire eastern Belgian frontier. The cavalry scouts were active, but only in an attempt to develop the lines of the allies. The assertion, however, that the German line was pushed forward to Dinant, fifteen miles south of Namur, is accepted as significant.

The German forces are about to strike, and to strike hard, in an effort to clear the way for an advance into France at Lille, at Maubeuge, and at Mezris. The offensive movement may come at any moment. Until noon today the war office insisted there had been no general attack, and the air scouts reported the Germans maintaining advanced position.

AUSTRIAN TROOPS IN BELGIUM.
The strength of the army now in force along the frontier between Germany, Belgium and France is very great. Reports reaching here from Amsterdam today declared the Kaiser had started for the front, and that he was en route to Mainz, accompanied by the second army of the Moselle, which has moved directly west from Luxembourg.

RUSSIA IS INVAD BY COSSACK SCOUTS

Petersburg Reports German
Troops Retiring to Main Line
of Defense.

PETERSBURG, Aug. 17.—Strong columns of Cossacks, supported by light artillery, machine guns, and mounted infantry, are penetrating the Prussian frontier. The advance was reported by the Russian press today. The Russian columns are reported to have followed the line of the railway from Eydukhnen. The Prussian columns are reported to have advanced, but falling back slowly toward the line of their main fortifications.

Austrian and Servian Battle Rumor Denied

LONDON, Aug. 17.—Denial of a battle between Austria and Servia, of which were circulated in Paris today, has been made in a wire-telegram from Berlin, given to the German newspapers today. The dispatch reads:
Two Russian cavalry divisions appeared in the east, and having set fire to the small town of Mersbach, east of Pless, withdrew over the frontier.

Important engagements have taken place in Togoland (German West Africa) between patrols and invading French troops. The enemy lost three killed, but there were no German casualties.

English troops also have entered Poland, but have not come in contact with the German.

FULL BERLIN STORY TOLD FIRST TIME

Von Wiegand Sends Detailed
Account of Happenings in
German Capital.

SENSATIONAL RUMORS ARE
AUTHORITATIVELY DENIED

Message From The Hague Held
Up for Forty-eight Hours by
British Censor.

The first complete story of the events in Germany following the opening of the war reached New York today from Karl H. Von Wiegand, United Press staff correspondent in charge of the Berlin bureau. It is plain from its text that the story was held up by the British censor for forty-eight hours. It sets at rest many wild stories heretofore circulated in the United States regarding conditions in Germany. The story follows:

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By KARL H. VON WIEGAND,
United Press Staff Correspondent in
Berlin.

THE HAGUE, Holland, Aug. 17.—Cut off entirely from communication with the world, Germany is meeting the problems of the war quietly and with determination. Because of the interruption of telegraphic and cable service, the lines having been cut by the enemy, many utterly false reports have been circulated. As an evidence of how complete is the isolation, the death of Mrs. Woodrow Wilson was not known at the German capital when I left there Thursday night. And many of the stories solemnly circulated broadcast regarding happenings within Germany are absolutely false.

One of the most cruel is that the Socialist delegation in the Reichstag has been executed—100 of them—by order of the Kaiser, because they participated in anti-war demonstrations. This story also said that Deputy Liebknecht, leader of the Socialists, was summarily shot by a firing squad after he had refused to join his regiment and that Rosa Luxemburg, whose stories of alleged cruelties to the German common soldier by his superior officers resulted in her arrest some months ago, had also been shot after a court-martial.

These stories are absolute lies. Not a single Socialist has been shot. Not one has been arrested. Liebknecht is fighting for the Fatherland, as are hundreds of thousands of other Socialists. Eleven of the Socialists are at the front. The attitude of the party in the present crisis is best shown by the action of one of its most famous leaders, who has been released after serving a sentence of one year for making an appeal to all members of the party to rush to the colors and aid in saving the Fatherland. Another story given circulation is that Ambassador Gerard has attended meetings held to celebrate German victories. This is utterly without foundation. The American ambassador has taken absolutely no part in any happenings of a political nature. He and Mrs. Gerard have been working eighteen hours a day caring for the Americans who are in the capital.

(Continued on Third Page.)

Trade Bodies Asked to Contribute to Red Cross

The Washington Chamber of Commerce and Board of Trade have been appealed to by Miss Mabel Boardman, secretary of the American Red Cross, and a member of the International relief board, to make a substantial contribution for the relief of the war sufferers in Europe. Similar letters have been sent to all the trade bodies of the United States.

FRENCH INVADING ARMY MEETS STUBBORN FOE

Paris Reports Germans Making Determined
Resistance, But Dead and Wounded Said
to Run Into the Thousands—Fierce
Hand-to-Hand Fighting in Trenches.

By WILLIAM PHILIP SIMMS.

PARIS, Aug. 17.—The French army invading Germany is reported slowly but surely advancing in the face of most determined opposition. All along the line of Alsace-Lorraine the forces have clashed. The dead and wounded run into the thousands, but the French war office, in a series of official bulletins, insists the French success is continued.

While the fighting so far has been between the advance guards of the main armies, it has been most desperate in character. The French cavalry, with its mountain artillery, is declared to dominate the upper reaches of the Vosges mountains. In addition, the offensive movement against Saarburg is being pushed. One column, the war office says, is at Abresweiller, six miles southeast of Saarburg, while other columns are closing in on the city from the west and the north.

HEAVY FIGHTING IN THE NORTH.

There is also heavy fighting in upper Alsace. The French attacking columns there are reported as taking the German advanced base south of Muelhausen. According to a very brief official bulletin posted by the war office the French army operating south of Muelhausen, after shelling the German trenches, charged and carried them by storm. There was fierce hand-to-hand fighting in which bayonets were freely

GERMAN CRUISERS IN FIGHT WITH BRITISH

Goeben and Breslau Reported
Crippled Upon Reaching the
Dardanelles.

ROME, Aug. 17.—That the German cruisers Goeben and Breslau were compelled to take refuge in the Dardanelles because of having been fired upon and crippled by British cruisers, is reported by commanders of Italian steamers arriving here from the Orient.

ATHENS, Aug. 17.—Despite the assurances of the Turkish ambassadors in St. Petersburg and Paris to the contrary, it is the general conviction here that the acquisition of two German warships by Turkey concerns both Russia and Greece.

Greece to Demand Porte Explain Army on Frontier

PARIS, Aug. 17.—Greece will ask Constantinople to explain why Turkish troops are being massed on the frontier of Thrace, according to a report received from Rome. If the reply of the Turkish government is not satisfactory, Greece will mobilize her army, it is stated.

IN CONGRESS TODAY.

SENATE.
Met at 11.
Conference report on shipping registry bill taken up under agreement to vote this afternoon.

HOUSE.
Met at noon.
Considered bills on unanimous consent calendar.

Adopted resolution asking about press agents in Department of Agriculture. Congressman Britten offered a resolution concerning Japan's ultimatum to Germany.

PRESIDENT SEES NOTHING HOSTILE

Ultimatum to Germany From
Japan Scanned for Possible
Complications.

STATE DEPARTMENT IS
SILENT ON SITUATION

Grave Conditions Might Arise,
Say Officials, to Arouse
Hostile Sentiment.

Secrecy, such as enshrouds the moves of a nation when diplomatic relations require unusual tact, surrounds the part that the United States Government is taking today in the strained relations between Japan and Germany.

President Wilson absolutely refuses to make any statement concerning the ultimatum of Japan to the Kaiser, other than that he regarded it to have been made in good faith.

Secretary of State Bryan, after a conference with the President this morning, refused to give any information regarding the conference, which is known to have been a thorough discussion of the curt note to the German nation setting forth Japan's attitude concerning the present situation in the Far East.

Although the President's expression of confidence in Japan's attitude is generally taken to mean that he does not anticipate that the United States will be involved in the situation through the violation of the integrity of China, opinion (Continued on Second Page.)

FRENCH-AUSTRIAN FLEETS IN BATTLE

War Craft Clash in Adriatic Sea,
Resulting in Victory for
French, Says Dispatch.

LONDON, Aug. 17.—Reports of the first naval engagement in the Adriatic between the French and Austrian fleets, reached here today from Nish, Servia. These reports assert a sweeping victory was gained for the French.

According to the story, which is said to be semi-official, the French squadron, which has been in pursuit of the Goeben and the Breslau, encountered the Austrians off Bayda, and an engagement followed. After a fight of an hour, two of the Austrian ironclads were sunk, a third was set on fire, and a fourth sped toward Cattaro, pursued by the French.

British Menace Pola.

ROME, Aug. 17.—The British Mediterranean fleet is off the Austrian naval base of Pola, in the Adriatic, and a bombardment of the defense there is expected. The British fleet of battle cruisers pursued the Austrian cruisers Salisburgh and Saida from Antivari to Pola, but were unable to capture them. The Austrians took refuge inside of the fortress, under protection of the land forts, and the British cruisers are expected to try out the defenses of the forts with their heavy guns.

Battle Report Confirmed.

LONDON, Aug. 17.—The official war bureau in a statement issued late this afternoon, confirms the fact that the French fleet has been in action in the Adriatic. The bureau says:
"The French fleet has swept the Adriatic as far north as the Gulf of Cattaro, the best harbor in the Adriatic, which the French fleet now dominates. The fleet has sunk a small Austrian cruiser of the Aspern type."

JAPAN AIMS CRUSHING BLOW AT GERMANY'S PRESTIGE IN FAR EAST

Fleet Prepared to Strike and Army Ready for
Transports—American Ambassador
Told of Plans of Tokyo Government.

Stirred by Japan's ultimatum that Germany must evacuate Kiaochow, China has dispatched a strong detachment of troops with the evident intention of seizing the territory.

Suspicious of Japan's expressed intention to restore the rich German colony and seaport to China, Peking is attempting to forestall any move that the Island Kingdom may make.

Japan's demand, explicit in terms, is backed by warlike preparations.

Her fleet is manned, ready to strike. Her army is ready. Transports are provisioned, and steam is up.

President Wilson and the State Department profess to see no hostility to American interests in the situation, but official Washington sees the possibility of perplexing complications.

Japan's position is no longer in doubt. Her ultimatum asks the impossible.

Her action in demanding the withdrawal of Germany from the Far East presages a declaration of war either on the part of Berlin or Tokyo.

Withdrawal of German men-of-war from Japanese and Chinese waters and the disarmament of such as cannot be removed, and the evacuation of Kiaochow by September 15, the Japanese demands, would strike a blow at German commerce and halt the aggressive operations upon British and French merchantmen already under way.

Tokyo does not expect its demands to be granted, and the issue is clearly drawn.

Hostilities may not be delayed until Sunday.

Germany's declaration of war upon Japan is likely to follow as swiftly as she acted against Russia, France, and England.

JAPAN READY TO STRIKE.

In that event, Japan is ready to strike, and a new theater of hostilities will be added to the "war of the nations."

Foreign Minister Takaaki Kato has called on American Ambassador Guthrie in Tokyo and presented the situation to him. He said the action of the Japanese government was in the interest of peace in the Orient.

The Japanese position, said the foreign minister, is that the presence of German warships in Far Eastern waters and the maintenance there of a German base, is detrimental to peace in the Orient, inasmuch as trading vessels are always in danger of capture by the Germans.

The ambassador was requested to emphasize to his home government that Japan had no territorial designs here. The German colonies she desired turned back to China. The foreign minister gave the most profuse assurances of Japan's friendship to the United States, and declared that under no circumstances will anything be permitted that would in any way offend the Government of the United States.

The ultimatum follows:
"In order to insure its receipt, the time limit for answering was set until August 23.
Immediately upon announcing its attitude, the Japanese premier, Count Okuma, addressed meetings in Tokyo of merchants and members of parliament. In company with the Japanese foreign minister Takaaki Kato, the premier declared Japan sought no territorial aggrandizement, but that Germany's activities in Asiatic waters menaced the commercial relations of the East, and